
**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**January 27, 2009
Minutes**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP. AN AUDIOCASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Meeting of the Transportation Conformity Working Group was held at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.

In Attendance:

Alameida, Stacy	MTA
Alley, Brian	RBF Consulting
Gainor, Mike	MTA
Litschi, Michael	OCTA

SCAG Staff

Asuncion, John
Ayala, Rosemary
Kuo, Ryan
Luo, Rongsheng
Sherwood, Arnie

Via Teleconference:

Alvarez, Grace	RCTC
Brady, Mike	Caltrans Headquarters
Ben Cacatian	VCTC
Clymo, Amy	CH2M
Fagan, Paul	Caltrans, District 8
Gallo, Ilene	Caltrans Headquarters
Noch, Michelle	FHWA
Kratovil, Aimee	FHWA
Lopez, Rosa	IVAG
O'Connor, Karina	EPA, Region 9
Romero, Reyes	ICAPCD
Sells, Eyvonne	SCAQMD
Walecka, Carla	TCA
Williams, Leann	Caltrans, District 7
Yoon, Andrew	Caltrans, District 7
Tax, Wienke	EPA, Region 9

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Minutes**

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Michael Litschi, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments.

3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 Approval Item

3.1.1 TCWG November 25, 2008 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved.

4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 RTP Update

Ryan Kuo, SCAG, reported the following:

- SCAG has received a FHWA conformity approval letter on 2008 RTP Amendment #1.
- The current main effort at SCAG is on SB 375 and its implications on the 2012 RTP development process.
- The Plans & Programs Technical Advisory Committee (P&P TAC) is reconvening and will have its first meeting on January 29th. The TAC will review all the technical assumptions that go into the RTP including transportation projects and SB375 components.

4.2 RTIP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, reported the following:

- Federal approval has been received for the 2008 RTIP Amendment #1.
- 2008 RTIP Amendment #2 has received state approval but is waiting for federal approval.
- SCAG is working closely with the CTCs and IVAG on the RTIP amendments for the economic stimulus. The revenue amendment has been posted on SCAG's RTIP website. The amendment provides about \$1 billion

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for highways and \$450 million for transit but the dollar amounts are subject to change. A project needs to be in the RTIP to be eligible for the stimulus fund.

4.3 Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms

1) LAOD328 – The project proposes to construct auxiliary lanes from 8th Street on-ramp to NB Olympic Bl. or SB I-110/I-10 connector; and modify ramps at NB 9th Street off-ramp, SB Olympic Bl. Off-ramp, and SB 11th Street on-ramp. Ramp modifications comprise of widening right shoulder (Olympic), constructing retaining walls with noise barrier (Olympic & 11th St.), and widening and adding a left-turn lane (9th St.). The project also proposes widening undercrossing structures. The proposed project is located in the City of Los Angeles.

It was determined that this is not a POAQC.

4.4 Review of Qualitative PM Hot Spot Analysis

Schuyler Heim Bridge Replacement and SR-47 Expressway Project – The project proposes to: (1) replace the existing Schuyler Heim Bridge to meet current seismic criteria; (2) construct an expressway along SR-47 or SR-103 to provide an alternative route for traffic between Terminal Island and I-405; and (3) construct a two-lane elevated flyover structure to divert traffic bound for northbound SR-47 directly onto the new bridge from eastbound Ocean Blvd. The Schuyler Heim Bridge is located with the City and Port of Long Beach, and Terminal Island is co-located within the Port of Long Beach and Port of Los Angeles.

It was determined that the analysis deemed acceptable for NEPA circulation. Staff was requested to follow-up on why the project was identified as a TCM.

4.5 EPA Update

Karina O’Conner, EPA, stated that she had been reviewing the South Coast MOU and comparing it to a draft EPA SIP conformity guidance document to make sure the MOU includes all the conformity SIP elements in the guidelines. To be approved as conformity SIP, the MOU would have to be signed by all parties, submitted to the SIP by ARB, and make a demonstration that it is enforceable under the state law. Dennis Wade, ARB, is checking into whether MOU would be

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**January 27, 2009
Minutes**

enforceable under the state law. After completing her review, Ms. O'Connor will send a copy to Jonathan Nadler, SCAG, and go over with him to make sure that her understanding of the MOU is correct.

4.6 PM10 Maintenance Plan Update

Eyvonne Sells, SCAQMD, stated that the PM10 Maintenance Plan was currently undergoing an internal review by AQMD's staff.

Reyes Romero, ICAPCD, reported that Imperial County was required to develop a PM10 SIP by December 11, 2008. The ICAPCD has not submitted the SIP but is working diligently on it in conjunction with ARB, EPA, and the SIP Working Group. It is projected that the draft PM10 SIP document will be ready for public review in March 2009; the final SIP will be submitted to ICAPCD Board for adoption on April 28; the adopted SIP will be presented to ARB Board in May 2009; and the final SIP will be submitted to the EPA for final approval in May or June 2009.

5.0 INFORMATION SHARING

On January 23rd, the ARB appointed the Regional Target Advisory Committee (RTAC) pursuant to SB 375. The committee consists of a group of stakeholders throughout California from MPOs, cities, transportation agencies, and the building industry. The committee will develop the methodology for setting the target under AB 32 for transportation related emission reductions from development projects and for split the state target among various regions in the state. The first meeting of the RTAC will be held on February 3rd. The ARB website has a list of representations from throughout the state.

Carla Walecka, Transportation Corridor Agency (TCA), informed the group that the Secretary of Commerce had released a decision to not approve the Transportation Corridor Agencies appeal of the Coastal Commissions' objection to a consistency determination for Foothill Corridor South in Southeast Orange County. The Secretary of Commerce recommended further consideration of several alternatives already studied in the EIR. TCA Board has directed staff to continue to evaluate all viable options. TCA has launched an out-reach effort to engage both opponents and proponents of the toll road to seek consensus. Refining the project scope is not anticipated to result in any immediate changes to either the RTP or RTIP.

**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
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**January 27, 2009
Minutes**

Stacy Alameida, Metro, reported that the project manager of the Hot Lanes demonstration project will submit information to the FHWA for CMAQ analysis of the different phases of the Hot Lane project by January 31, 2009. The project is currently in extensive outreach. A working group has been formed to deal with the phases of the project. The project is included in the 2008 RTP and RTIP amendments that have been approved.

Mike Brady, Caltrans Headquarters, reported that there was a settlement of the HWY50 Case in Sacramento. The CEQA document for the HWY50 project, a HOV lane addition, was challenged by a number of environmental groups claiming that there were not enough analyses of air quality and green house gas impacts. It was also argued that the HOV lane addition would increase highway capacity regardless how it would be managed. Part of the settlement is a significant improvement to the parallel transit lines.

It was suggested and agreed that SB 375 information/update be a standing item on the TCWG agenda.

Arnie Sherwood, SCAG, stated that the next PM2.5 SIP update will be due around the same time as the next RTP in 2012.

Karina O'Connor, EPA, stated that the new PM2.5 designation will trigger a new conformity determination for the new standards. Ms. O'Connor confirmed that the transition to the new PM2.5 standards will be similar to the previous transition to the 8-hour Ozone standards, that is, the previous budgets will serve as the budgets for the new standards until new budgets have been developed.

6.0 TCM WORKING GROUP DISCUSSIONS

It was suggested and agreed that future TCM Working Subgroup (TCMWG) meetings will be held monthly immediately after the TCWG meetings.

The following TCM issues were briefly discussed as items for future TCMWG meetings:

- How to handle/substitute very small TCM projects such as quarter-mile bike lane or bus stop improvement projects?
- How to estimate benefits of TCM projects that currently do not have quantification methods?
- RTIP guidelines as mechanism for changing definition of new TCMs
- TCM addition and substitution process
- SIP definition of TCMs

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Minutes**

- Revision to rolling TCMs in 2007 SIPs
- TCMs in other non-attainment regions

It was requested that basic TCM materials such as EPA guidance on TCM substitution, SIP TCM guidelines, and SCAG RTIP guidelines be posted on the website.

It was also requested that a regular update on the Hot Lane Demonstration Project be provided to the TCMWG.

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

Michael Litschi adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

The next meeting of the TCWG will be held on February 24, 2009.